



Southeast News

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NUMBER 7

Arthur Gray: In Memorium

After conducting the evening worship service, the Rev. Dr. Arthur D. Gray died sometime Friday night, June 22, 1979 at the General Synod, Indianapolis, Indiana.

One of the principals in the formation of the United Church of Christ, Dr. Gray was widely known and widely respected. Not only did he hold every volunteer office in the United Church, but he was a tireless worker for the achievement of equal rights.

Ordained as a minister in the Congregational Christian Churches, he began a 10 year pastorate at Plymouth Congregational Church in Washington, D.C. He then served as pastor of the Church of Good Shepherd, Chicago until 1952, when he became the first Black to be elected President of Talladega College, Talladega, Alabama.

Some 10 years later he returned to the parish at Chicago's Congregational Church of Park Manor, from which he retired in February, 1977. In 1969 he was a candidate for the presidency of the United Church of Christ. In October, 1978, he was named interim President and Minister of the United Church's Massachusetts Conference and served until March, 1979. Dr. Gray was 72 years of age.

October 11-13 Date for Southern Regional Womens' Meeting

United Church of Christ women of the Southern, Southeast, Florida and South Central Conferences, will meet together October 11-13, 1979 at Bethany Hills Camp, Kingston Springs, Tennessee to grapple with the issues which confront women in today's world.

Entitled "Women in Community," the Conference has secured powerful leadership in the persons of Dr. Barbara Zikmund, Chicago Theological Center; Ms. Sally Bentley, Union Theological Seminary; and leaders from the UCC national offices.

The cost for the entire Conference is \$35. For further information, write to Rev. Joyce Myers, P.O. Box 29883, Atlanta, Ga. 30359.



New church sign, Button Gwinnett UCC

Charter Sunday Celebrated By Button Gwinnett, UCC

Some 100 persons were present to celebrate the signing of the Charter of Button Gwinnett United Church of Christ on Sunday, June 3, 1979. The first of five new church starts in the Southeast Conference, Button Gwinnett UCC has purchased a site in Lilburn, Georgia where the future church plant will be constructed.

Some 47 out of 52 Charter Members were present to affix their signature to the Charter Document, the signing of which was incorporated into a special service of worship held in the gym of the school building across from the new church property. In addition to members of the sponsoring Committee, other special guests included William Andes, Floyd Carmack and William Scott all of whom were representing the Southeast Conference, United Church of Christ.

Following the worship service, Church Moderator, Wayne Austin, unveiled the church's new sign.

The congregants of Button Gwinnett UCC are now involved in an intensive church growth program.

Button Gwinnett is one of a projected five new church starts that will get underway within the Southeast Conference

Are You Ready?

Are you ready to help your Neighbors in Need? Each year, members of the United Church of Christ are invited to respond to the needs of some of their neighbors by giving to the Neighbors in Need all-church offering. Most congregations receive gifts for NIN on the first Sunday of October — this year, October 7.

The proceeds from the 1979 NIN offering will provide basic amounts for new programs that have been designated by the UCC Executive Council as follows:

—\$110,000 to the Office for Church in Society for "Aid for Newly-Arrived Immigrants."

—\$200,000 or one-third of the net offering (whichever is larger) to the Council for American Indian Ministry for "Ministries for American Indians."

—\$125,000 to the Commission for Racial Justice for "Rights for Mentally Retarded Alleged Criminal Offenders."

—\$85,000 to the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries for "Community Betterment in Urban Areas."

—\$75,000 to the Office of Communication for "Television Spot-Announcements on the Church's Role in Combating World Hunger."

Each congregation of the United Church of Christ should receive its bulk shipment of promotional materials for the Neighbors in Need offering by the end of August. Shipments should be opened at once to see if they contain sufficient quantities for promotion of the offering or if an order for additional material should be placed. Note that September 17 is the recommended date for American Indian Sunday, a part of the annual NIN observance.

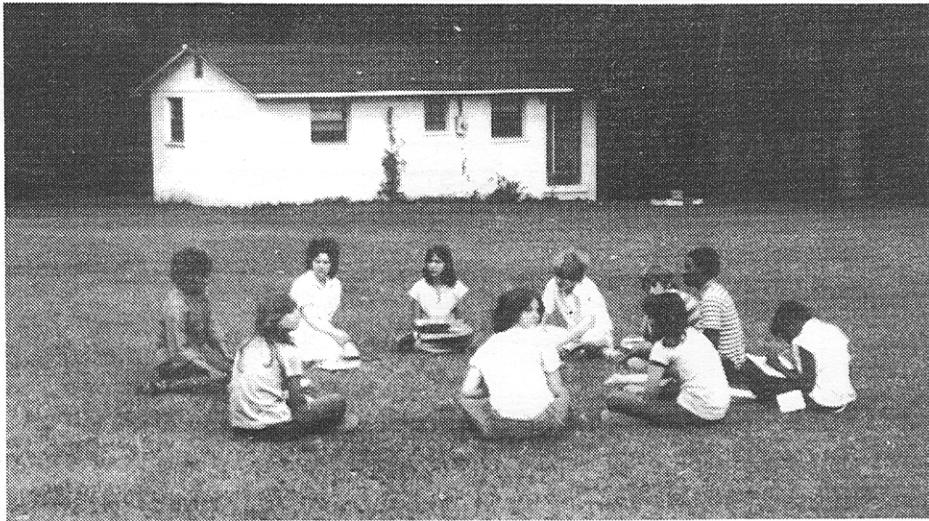
Tractor Result of Thrifty Builder

With a good deal of pride Uplands Retirement Center in Pleasant Hill, TN reports the completion of the new Heritage Village apartments at a cost approximately \$65,000 below that authorized by the Farmers Home Administration.

With a low interest loan of \$430,000 Uplands named itself the contractor after rejecting the high costs submitted in three

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Mrs. Mary Marshall leading small group discussion, Southern AL Area Mini-Camp.

Southern Alabama Camping News

At the summer meeting of the Southern Alabama Area Council the evaluation of the spring mini-camp for junior and senior highs was the main business on the agenda. This weekend event, held April 20-22 at Marianna, Florida on Mexico Beach was enjoyed by some 103 youth and leaders.

The food service was provided by Bobby Stalnecker, a mess sergeant with the Alabama National Guard in conjunction with Alton Nixon who purchased the food. James McAdams was chief dishwasher with other adults pitching in their help in the kitchen. Cost for the camp was only \$15 per person.

J.K. Murphy was program director and Lena Dollar as publicity director is already planning the campaign for the upcoming camp for pre-junior highs (intermediates) for the first weekend in October.

Tractor . . .

[Cont. from Page 1]

successive biddings. Mr. Herbert Hale of Pleasant Hill managed the construction with the result that in its inspection tour, FmHA administrations commented favorably on the quality of the construction which was apparent in the buildings. They said that only seldom do they see buildings of such caliber.

As a result of the saving, FmHA approved using the remaining portion of the Authorized loan to purchase a much needed tractor. It is a medium-size Ford 1600 series diesel which will be used for maintenance and for snow removal on Uplands property.

Ala-Tenn Youth To Meet

Youth representing the churches of the Alabama-Tennessee Association will meet at Huntsville United Church, Huntsville, Alabama on Saturday, August 18 from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Along with adult advisors, the youth will participate in a process of planning Association-wide youth activities for the coming year.

GA-SC

Youth Clustering

The clustering of churches in youth ministry is strongly advocated by the Youth Core and individual Christian Education leaders. Three such activities in the metro Atlanta area have been by the GA-SC Association's Committee for CE. Three of the churches participated in a matinee performance presenting an intergenerational drama at the Academy Theater on Sunday, January 28. The performance was followed at the theater by discussion with audience and artists. The UCC youth were then guests of First Congregational Church for a spaghetti dinner.

The second cluster was held at Norris Lake, Gwinnett County, where youth and their families, with UCC ministers in specialized ministries as special guests, gathered for a picnic dinner, swimming and games, and Summer Camp orientation. Churches participating were Rush Memorial, Central and Button Gwinnett.

The third cluster event was one in which 10 selected Senior Highs constituted a 10-day unit on Sr. High Leadership Development at Camp Calvin. Part of their assignment was that of being counselors for 30 inner city children at Day Camp for five days. Churches participating were Central, Cobb, First and Rush Memorial. The camp director was highly complementary of the group and added that these children from Carver Homes would not have had a Day Camp if the UCC youth unit had not gone to lead.

Rev. William Scott, pastor of Central Congregational Church, UCC in Atlanta, commissioned the group and their Director on Pentecost, June 3 — sending them out in the name of the church on their mission.

Trudi Sanford

Charter Sunday . . .

[Cont. from Page 1]

during the next decade. A second new church start has been initiated in Cobb County, Atlanta, Ga.

HASTY PRAYER

"We thank thee, Lord, for instant coffee, ready-made cocoa, one-minute oatmeal, and pop-up waffles. In haste, amen."

Deer Lodge Newsletter

New Ministers Called

The South Alabama Area reports the following ministerial changes:

—Roy Bain, formerly of Baker-Pyron Chapel, began his pastorate at LaGrange United, LaGrange, Ga., on July 15.

—Alton Nixon, formerly of Baker-Good Hope, has moved as of July 1 to Huguley, Ala., Congregational-Christian Church.

—James McAdams, formerly of East Tallahassee, began at Hillside Church, LaGrange, Ga., on June 1.

—Steve Voelker, a student at Candler Theological Seminary, began at Woodbury-Jones Chapel on July 8. Steve is from the Southern Indiana Association.

The Energy Crisis: Five things You Can Do!

What can you do to help the energy crisis? Try these suggestions:

—Keep a limit of 68 degrees on heating and 76 degrees on air conditioning.

—Car-pooling, walking, or taking public transportation as often as possible and limiting pleasure-driving.

—Avoiding over-packaged goods, highly refined and processed foods, and non-returnable containers or ones that cannot be recycled.

—Insulating or otherwise improving the energy-efficiency of dwellings.

—Spending savings on education, health care, community organizations, etc. and not on energy-consuming activities.

For further information, contact: Interfaith Coalition on Energy, 1413 K Street NW, 8th Floor, Washington, DC 20005.

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First Congregational-Christian Church, UCC, Roanoke, Alabama.

AROUND THE CONFERENCE

From the Atlantic Ocean to the Mississippi River, from the Gulf of Mexico to the mountains of Tennessee, the Southeast Conference covers a broad expanse of territory. Contained within her boundaries are some 120 churches — widely dispersed — widely diverse in heritage and religious expression — and yet united in the conviction that the churches of Jesus Christ "may all be one."

Representing the seven UCC churches of Roanoke, Alabama is First Congregational-Christian Church, UCC which was founded on September 16, 1923. In October of that year the church was admitted to membership of the Alabama Christian Conference at its Annual Meeting held in Cragford, Ala.

Some three years later, in 1926, the church's present building was constructed. In 1950 brick veneer was added to the building and in 1955 the building received a steeple. The most recent additions to the church were completed in 1972 when a Fellowship Hall was constructed and the interior of the church was renovated.

First Church, Roanoke, is also the site of the East Alabama Association Library which began with books from the libraries of the Reverends C. Carl Dollar, Jesse H. Dollar and Joe E. French.

While the church has never passed the 100 mark in membership, it has been the site of the ordination of four ministers into the Gospel ministry.

Of the original 15 chapter members of the church, two are still living: Mrs.

Gertrude Hood and Mrs. Cora Head.

Rev. Joe French has been the pastor since 1972.

The Strength of Community

The sequoia trees on the West Coast are the oldest trees in this country and may be some of the oldest living things on our planet. It is believed that some of these trees were living six hundred years before Moses led his people out of bondage.

The secret of their long life has been the subject of much research. One of the major factors is said to be their interdependence. The roots of the sequoia trees are not deep. There is no central tap root. But always these trees live in clumps. Their roots intertwine, and they hold each other up. The strength of one is the strength of all. It is unlikely that a sequoia tree, standing alone, could survive.

One of the secrets of a living congregation is a sense of mutual interdependence. Some call it a sense of community — feeling responsibility for one another, supporting one another, praying for and with one another, working with one another, joining others in the pilgrimage of being disciples.

There is strength in community and the church is community — the Body of Christ.

NEWS NOTES

Dadeville, Elder Church in Dadeville, Ala., contributed \$1,401.85 to the Scott-Morgan Habitat for Humanity Program in Scott County, Tennessee.

Three new directors were elected to three year terms of the Board of Directors of Uplands, Inc. which held its Annual Meeting, March 30 and 31. They are: Paul F. Austin, Crossville; Clyde M. York, Columbia; and the Rev. Van D. Grimes, Conover, N.C.

Melvin Fether, a member of Langdale, Ala., Congregational-Christian Church has been elected Lt. Governor of the Kiwanis International.

Chuck Collier is the new Youth Minister of Central Congregational Church, UCC in Atlanta. He began in his new position at the end of June.

The Morgan-Scott Project still needs hundreds of the labels from Campbell Soup, V-8 and Franco-American cans. They are to help The Plateau Home School acquire school supplies and sports equipment. Please send in care of Morgan-Scott Project, Lancing, TN 37770.

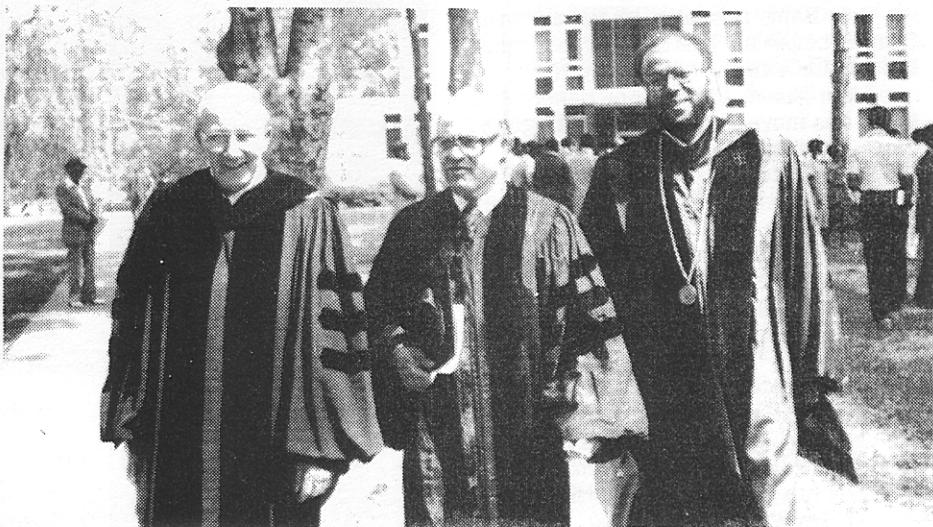
Pilgrim Congregational Church, UCC in Birmingham will celebrate its annual Blue Roof Gala on Friday and Saturday, August 24 and 25.

Rev. D. Herbert Long, pastor of First Congregational Church, Memphis, TN and formerly a pastor in the Southeast Conference, suffered a heart attack on June 9. At last report, he is resting comfortably in the Methodist Central Hospital in Memphis. His home address is: 4714 Lorece Ave., Memphis, TN 38117.

The free will offering received at the Southeast Conference Annual Meeting totaled \$450.00. Contributions of \$150 were sent to Tougaloo, Fisk and Talladega Colleges. Thank you notes were received from the Presidents of each of the colleges.

Center for Outdoor Ministry Established

The Board for Homeland Ministries, through the National Advisory Committee on Outdoor Ministries, has provided the seed money to establish an Outdoor Ministries Information Center at the Defiance College, Defiance, Ohio. The purpose of this center is to gather information about resources (people, curriculum, audio-visuals, program models, etc.) to catalogue and store the information so that people who plan Outdoor Ministries programs may call or



Conference Minister, W.J. Andes, accompanies commencement speaker Benjamin Hooks, Executive Director of the NAACP and President Gales at the 104th Commencement at Talladega College, Talladega, AL held May 20, 1979.

Dates and Places: 1979

A new season of church activity is just around the corner. Please study the list of events posted below and mark your calendars accordingly!

Aug. 1 — Sub-committee of Ala-TN Association Committee on Church and Ministry, Pilgrim Church, Birmingham.

Aug. 16-18 — Board of Directors, Southeast Conference, Cheaha State Park.

Aug. 18 — Ala-TN Youth Planning Meeting, Huntsville, Ala., UCC.

Aug. 18-19 — Oak Grove Fair, Pine Mountain, Ga.

Sept. 10-11 — Conference Ministers of the United Church of Christ, Pittsburgh, PA.

Sept. 14-15 — Annual Meeting, Ala-TN Association, Pilgrim UCC, Chattanooga.

Sept. 19-21 — Edwin Mehlhaff at Pilgrim Church, Chattanooga.

Sept. 21 — Morgan-Scott Project, Oak Ridge, TN.

Sept. 21-22 — Uplands Board of Directors Pleasant Hill, TN.

Sept. 22 — Edwin Mehlhaff with pastors of new churches in Atlanta.

Sept. 24-25 — Edwin Mehlhaff, First

write the Information Center requesting the assistance in identifying the resources which will be applicable to the type and style of event being planned.

The Center will provide services for the first six months at no cost and then will be available to Conferences withing the UCC on an annual subscription basis.

For further information, write: Ms. Debbie Heintz, Director, Outdoor Ministries Information Center, Defiance College, Defiance, Ohio 43512.

Church, Savannah.

Sept. 28-29 — Mission Seminar, Pleasant Hill, TN.

Sept. 30 — Guest leaders of Mission Seminar to preach in neighboring churches.

Oct. 1-5 — Edwin Mehlhaff in South Alabama area.

Oct. 6 — Annual Meeting, North Alabama Association, Caddo Church, Trinity, Ala.

Oct. 7 — World Wide Communion Sunday and Neighbor-In-Need All-Church Offering.

Oct. 13 — Annual Meeting, South Alabama-N.W. Florida Association, Pyron's Chapel, Baker, Fla.

Oct. 20 — Annual Meeting, East Alabama Association, Noon Day Church, Wedowee, Ala.

Oct. 21 — Annual Meeting, Central Alabama Association, East Tallassee Church, E. Tallassee, Ala.

Oct. 26-27 — Annual Meeting, Georgia-South Carolina Association, First Congregational UCC, Savannah, Ga.

Oct. 28 — Reformation Sunday.

EXPANDING

Fairfield Glade, TN, Community Church is beginning to feel the need for more space. With the summer season not yet arrived, they are averaging 98 people at church each Sunday. A building fund of \$6,000 has been accumulated and the church soon hopes to begin looking at land and plans.